

The Geographical History of America by Gertrude Stein

And the raw materials are not numerous and so there must be repetitions and without repetitions music literature and art and of course the other arts would not be possible and without repetitions the world of nature would not be possible. Aeschylus and Sophocles and Euripides and Giraudoux and Richard Strauss and the story of Elektra's revenge against Clytemnestra and Aegisthus is repeated and five different aesthetic forms are the result and it was once believed that the physical universe was composed of air and water and fire and earth and it is now believed that the physical universe is composed of more than one hundred fundamental substances which consist of atoms of only one kind and $C_7H_5O_2Na$ and $NaHCO_3$ and $NaCO_3$ and $NaClO_3$ and $NaCl$ and $NaCN$ and $Na_2Cr_2O_7$ and NaF and $C_2H_2FO_2Na$ and $NaOH$ and $NaOCl$ are it goes without saying different and each one contains sodium and the raw materials are not numerous and so there must be repetitions. Repetitions and one of the reasons why Cézanne is important is that he represented the world of empirical reality in terms of repeated forms and this does not mean that Cézanne considered that all forms are dull but rather that the world of empirical reality is composed of a finite number of forms and dominant among them are the cube the cylinder and the sphere and without Cézanne's formal repetitions the Tomato Soup Can of Warhol would not have been possible. Cubes and spheres and cylinders and repetitions and what Cézanne considered to be the primary structural forms of the natural realm are different of course depending on the context. Musically Wagner comes to mind and the rising major arpeggio for the horns which begins Der Ring des Nibelungen is the nature motif and when the nature motif is played at double speed it becomes the surging motif of the Rhine and when the nature motif is played 4/4 in the minor in the fourth scene of Das Rheingold it becomes the motif of Erda and when Erda's rising motif is inverted it becomes the motif of the twilight of the gods and that is why musically Wagner comes to mind. Exposition and development and recapitulation and the repetitions which characterize aesthetic form are different from the repetitions which characterize natural form. The repetitions which characterize the latter are regular and that is why all plots are dull and the repetitions which characterize the former are irregular and that is why the number of forms for art is infinite. Repeti-